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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/626,215	07/24/2003	Charles Calvin Byers	42430-10684	9644
47377	7590	11/28/2005	EXAMINER	
JENNER & BLOCK LLP ONE IBM PLAZA CHICAGO, IL 60611			VO, TIM T	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2112		
DATE MAILED: 11/28/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/626,215	BYERS ET AL.
	Examiner Tim T. Vo	Art Unit 2112

– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 July 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 2-8, 12 and 14 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-10-11, 13 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 24 July 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

Part III DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant(s)

This application has been examined. Claims 1-14 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action: A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1, 10-11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA).

As for claim 1, AAPA teaches an electronic system comprising: a backplane including a multi-layer circuit board with a plurality of traces and N slots for receiving circuit packs and at least N-1 sets of connection points for interconnecting the N slots one-to-the other (see figure 1); wherein each set of connection points is selected to connect via the plurality of traces to a slot that is a predetermined relative number of slots away from said slot (see figure 1 and page 4 lines 1-29 and page 6 lines 20-23, wherein each connection points of the slots 102a-102f is connected via plurality of traces of T and R of the slots and the routing assignment, where row X of slot Y connects to row Y of slot X, the backplane system 200 assigns each row of connections 204 a relative shift that determines which slot is connected to another slot at a particular row of connections).

As for claim 10, AAPA teaches wherein the backplane has an interconnect topology that is a full mesh for N slots (see figure 1 and page 4 lines 21-22).

As for claim 11, AAPA teaches at least one circuit pack in the N slots, where the at least one circuit pack uses its slot position and a table of relative shifts to determine a physical port to communicate with another circuit pack in the N slots (see page 4 lines 1-29).

As for claim 13, AAPA teaches a multi-layered circuit board for use in an electronic system (see figure 1) comprising: a plurality of traces for making electrical connections (see figure 1, plurality traces lines via the slots 102a-102f); N slots for receiving circuit packs; N-1 rows of connection points for interconnecting the N slots one to the other using the plurality of traces (see figure 1, slots 104a-104f); wherein each row of connection points is selected to connect a circuit pack in a slot to a slot that is a predetermined relative shift from said circuit pack (see figure 1 and page 4 lines 1-29 and page 6 lines 20-23, wherein each connection points of the slots 102a-102f is connected via plurality of traces of T and R of the slots and the routing assignment, where row X of slot Y connects to row Y of slot X, the backplane system 200 assigns each row of connections 204 a relative shift that determines which slot is connected to another slot at a particular row of connections).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-8, 12 and 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tim T. Vo whose telephone number is 571-272-3642. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rehana Perveen can be reached on 571-272-3672. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

10/10/2005


Tim T. Vo
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2112